

the special order of the day on LB 33, a continuation of the debate on LB 33, and the Chair will recognize Senator Koch for any additional comments at this time before we get into our general debate.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 33 was considered yesterday. The committee amendments were adopted. Two amendments offered by Senator Koch were adopted. At this time there are no further amendments pending.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, as we concluded the debate yesterday, I believe there were certain lights that were asking or requesting to debate and I would yield to those lights if you are ready for that action.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: All right. Anything further, Senator Koch?

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, were there lights yesterday when we concluded?

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Yes, we will go to the speaking list of yesterday and maybe that will invoke some discussion. The first to speak on yesterday's list was Senator Marsh and the Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, we are now discussing LB 33. We are talking about additional state aid to our public schools and we are also talking about property taxes. Property taxes make up a big chunk of the tax dollars collected in the State of Nebraska. Out of each dollar collected for taxes at each level of government, sixty to sixty-two cents has been collected from property tax during the last five years. How does one reduce property taxes. Well, let's be realistic about it. Schools make up the biggest bite of that property tax. The property tax can be reduced. It can, yes, property tax can be reduced. Again, if we are going to be realistic, I only see two ways to do it. We could reduce the number of teachers and have our classrooms be larger. This would have an affect on property taxes. It would also have another affect, an adverse affect from my point of view, on the children in the State of Nebraska. Most parents are not willing to say reduce the number of teachers so that the classrooms have to grow but teachers' salaries do make up a large portion of the total dollars expended for schools. There is another way to reduce those property taxes, however. Another option is offered to this Legislature in 1977 and that is the passage of LB 33 because it would have an affect in each of your districts on the property taxes collected. Schools are going to run next year. Dollars are going to be expended for schools next year. The same number of dollars are going to be spent next year whether those dollars are collected from property taxes or an increase in state aid for education. I thought it was very interesting to read the most recent figures talking about the state's share of state, local and other revenues of public elementary and secondary schools. The dollars percentagewise in our 50 states range from a low of ten to a high of one hundred percent state dollars going into education. No, I am not recommending one hundred percent for the State of Nebraska, such as Hawaii is doing but one of our sister states whom many people consider very poor, Alabama, is paying over seventy-five percent of the